

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 178262

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR,TSPA, UR, US, UN

SUBJECT: BILATERALS WITH SOVIETS ON UNGA ISSUES:

DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITES (DBS)

REF: (A) MOSCOW 10648; (B) USUN 2349; (C) USUN 2507

(B&C NOTAL BEING REPREATED MOSCOW)

1. WE BELIEVE IT UNDESIRABLE FOR EMBOFFS TO RAISE DBS IN BILATERALS. PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF DBS ISSUES IN OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE (OSC) AND ITS SUBSIDIARY ORGANS (REFS B & C) WERE AGREED TO ONLY AFTER DIFFICULT NEGOTIATION. THEY ARE BARELY ACCEPTABLE TO US BUT REPRESENT CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN SOVS WANTED.

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2. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT REOPENING QUESTION IN BILATERALS COULD TRIGGER SOV MOVE IN UNGA FOR RESOLUTION RAISING PRIORITY FOR FURTHER OSC ACTION ON DBS AND PERHAPS REVIVING EXPLICIT STATEMENT OF NECESSITY OF DBS TREATY. EMBASSY WILL RECALL WE AND FRIENDLY COUNTRIES NARROWLY SUCCEEDED IN KNOCKING COMMITMENT TO TREATY OUT OF DBS RES ADOPTED BY 1972 UNGA. HOWEVER, WE ESTIMATE MOVE TO REINSTATE IT THIS FALL WOULD HAVE GOOD CHANCE. (AT PRESENT OSC HAS NO COMMITMENT TO ELABORATE PRINCIPLES, LET ALONE BINDING TREATY GOVERNING USE OF DBS. STRONG MAJORITY IN COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, WOULD FAVOR EFFORT TOWARD AGREED PRINCIPLES AT LEAST).

3. THEREFORE REQUEST YOU NOT BRING UP DBS IN BILATERALS. IF SOVS RAISE MATTER, YOU SHOULD REPLY THAT WE BELIEVE MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF DBS IN OSC, WHICH REFLECT DELICATELY BALANCED COMPROMISE OF VARIOUS DIFFERING VIEWPOINTS, SHOULD NOT BE ALTERED, AND THAT ASSEMBLY SHOULD APPROVE OSC REPORT RECOMMENDING THOSE ARRANGEMENTS AS SUBMITTED. IF YOU THINK ADVISABLE, YOU MAY ADD THAT SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF DBS QUESTION REMAIN UNDER ACTIVE USG CONSIDERATION.

4. US POSITION ON OTHER UNRESOLVED OUTER SPACE POLITICAL-LEGAL MATTERS (REGISTRATION OF SPACE OBJECTS AND TREATY ON THE MOON AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES) REMAINS UNCHANGED.
RUSH

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